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The WOOL SITUATION

TWS-29

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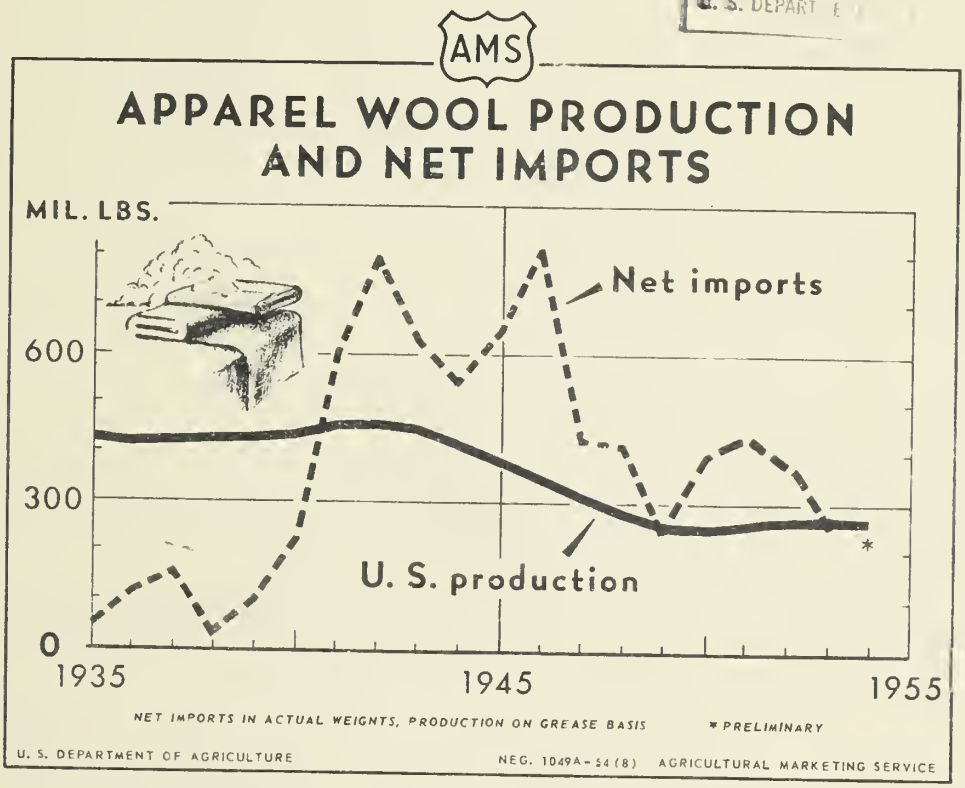

Production of wool this year is expected to be about the same as in 1953 with output of shorn wool estimated to be down less than 1 percent. Production in 1955 is likely to be about the same as this year.

Both imports and mill consumption of wool early this year were substantially below a year earlier. The rate of consumption during 1953 was about the same as during 1952, but imports were substantially lower.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
Wool	Cents per pound									
Average price received by farmers, grease basis		23.9	42.0	49.2	49.4	62.1	97.0	54.1	54.7	53.5-55.5
Boston, clean basis 2/										
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	84.4	124.2	164.6	166.4	199.2	270.5	165.3	173.0	170.0-180.0
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	80.5	118.8	145.5	147.0	178.2	246.0	147.6	152.1	150.0-160.0
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	71.9	107.0	107.6	112.8	151.0	215.2	128.7	132.3	127.5-137.5
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	66.6	100.6	99.3	100.1	134.3	202.3	120.4	121.7	115.0-125.0
Low ¼ blood	do.	60.9	89.2	88.5	92.5	116.2	183.7	103.5	102.7	102.5-112.5
Common and braid	do.	56.0	82.2	80.7	87.5	110.9	176.5	98.4	97.9	95.0-105.0
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	84.2	128.1	166.2	169.3	200.8	270.0	164.7	176.9	172.5-182.5
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	77.5	117.2	131.1	146.6	170.5	233.9	142.7	146.8	142.5-152.5
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	68.2	103.5	101.7	104.3	140.8	205.4	117.5	120.0	115.0-125.0
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	60.8	98.4	95.7	97.0	131.7	191.7	109.7	112.9	107.5-117.5
Low ¼ blood	do.	58.1	83.2	76.0	76.0	108.0	174.0	99.1	105.0	100.0-110.0
Common and braid	do.	53.7	78.2	71.0	71.0	102.8	167.5	93.3	95.5	95.0-105.0
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	80.9	122.0	164.9	165.7	198.4	267.5	166.5	180.8	175.0-185.0
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	74.1	106.1	123.3	133.6	166.1	226.0	148.6	164.8	160.0-170.0
Fine fall (¾" and over)	do.	69.0	101.1	108.3	122.9	148.7	193.3	137.0	149.1	150.0-160.0
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and ½ warp	do.	61.3	110.7	168.5	183.4	205.0	269.0	155.4	181.5	172.5-182.5
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	58.7	102.9	159.9	170.3	198.7	259.1	150.0	176.7	167.5-177.5
64's combing	do.	57.4	98.4	154.6	164.4	192.0	250.0	144.6	171.5	162.5-172.5
58's, 60's combing	do.	53.7	84.7	138.2	138.6	168.6	234.2	133.0	147.4	140.0-150.0
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	52.3	85.8	123.4	120.8	155.4	253.0	125.2	125.0	125.0-135.0
1's (56's)	do.	48.3	77.6	108.8	103.0	136.4	225.4	111.8	107.2	115.0-125.0
2's (50's)	do.	43.2	72.1	93.7	88.3	119.9	199.8	100.3	99.9	100.0-110.0
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	36.8	57.0	71.8	71.5	104.2	167.1	81.9	89.5	92.5-97.5
4's (44's)	do.	35.0	54.8	62.4	63.4	98.1	157.1	77.3	86.2	84.0-89.0
5's (40's)	do.	32.6	49.8	57.2	58.9	97.6	153.2	76.2	86.2	84.0-89.0
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 3/	do.	10.9	34.4	33.8	31.6	36.2	41.4	38.8	32.9	
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1½ denier 4/	do.	28.3	31.9	36.4	35.8	36.1	40.0	39.5	35.0	
Acetate, 5 denier 4/	do.	---	47.9	48.0	43.0	42.5	48.0	42.4	35.6	
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	190.0	
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	185.0	
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	125.0	125.0	127.3	128.0	
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	86.5	83.2	99.3	100.0	100.0	

1/ Indications as of October 1.
2/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
3/ Average of 10 markets.
4/ From Textile Organon.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 21, 1954

SUMMARY

World supply of wool for the 1954-55 season is expected to be slightly larger than for 1953-54. Although indications are that wool stocks are about the same as a year ago, world production of wool is expected to be about 1 percent higher.

World consumption of wool during 1955 may be above 1954. Consumption the first half of this year was 8 percent below the record rate of first half of 1953.

During the opening week (first week in September) of the current auction season, prices at the British Dominion sales declined to levels ranging from 15 to 20 percent below a year earlier. Then prices gradually advanced for about 5 weeks, but again declined. In Mid-October, prices of fine wools ranged from 10 to 15 percent below a year ago, and prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to about 10 percent below a year ago.

Domestic growers will receive somewhat higher gross returns from wool next year, as a result of the new wool program. Market prices of wool during the 1955 season (April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956) probably will average about the same as this year. But under the announced program, the average support level in 1955 will be 62 cents a pound (grease basis) to the grower. And, if necessary, payments will be made to growers to bring the average return (market price plus payment) up to the average support level. The National Wool Act of 1954 also provides for the support of pulled wool at such level as will maintain normal marketing practices. Pulled wool will be supported through payments on marketings of live sheep and lambs.

The combined output of domestic shorn and pulled wool next year probably will be a little lower than this year. The rate of slaughter this year suggests fewer sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of next year.

With economic activity and consumer purchasing power likely to continue at least at present levels, use of apparel wool by domestic mills is likely to be a little higher in 1955 than in 1954. During January-August of this year, mill consumption of apparel wool was down almost a third from a year earlier, while use of carpet wool was off nearly one-fifth. However, the rate of apparel wool consumption has improved gradually since late 1953 when it was unusually low, reflecting in part a reduction in inventories of wool products in manufacturing and distribution channels. Total mill consumption of apparel wool in 1954 is likely to be the lowest in almost 15 years.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices in British Dominions Somewhat Lower Than Year Ago

During the opening week (the first week of September) of the current auction season, prices at the British Dominion sales declined to levels between 15 and 20 percent below a year earlier and to between 10 and 15 percent below the closing prices of the 1953-54 season. During the following 5 weeks, prices advanced slowly but declined again during the second week of October. As of mid-October, auction prices of fine wools were between 10 and 15 percent below a year earlier, while prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to 10 percent below mid-October 1953.

Since late 1952, auction prices at Sydney for Australian type 78, a 64's quality good to average length wool, have ranged between a low of $1.80 and a high of $2.24 per pound, clean basis, c.i.f. Boston with duty added.

Boston Quotations Continue Relatively Stable

Quotations at Boston for both imported and domestic wools have not reflected the decline early in September at the British Dominion auctions.

At mid-October 1954, quotations for Australian 64's and finer wools were slightly lower than a year earlier. The lower level reflects a slight decline early last March. Quotations for Australian 58's, 60's were unchanged from October 1953.

Boston quotations for Montevideo super 2's (50's) and finer wools were a little higher than a year earlier, but those for super 3's (46's, 48's) were slightly lower than last October. Prices for Buenos Aires 5's (40's) and 5/6's (40/36's) were quoted about the same as a year earlier.

Quotations at Boston for most territory and Texas wools were a little higher than a year earlier (table 2). However, quotations for most fleece wools were slightly lower than in October 1953.

At mid-October, most domestic wools were quoted above loan rates (table 3). Among the exceptions were territory common and braid and fleece quarter blood. The loan rates for these wools were within the quoted price ranges.

Growers' Prices About Same As During 1953-54 Season

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool increased from an average of 53.6 cents per pound, grease basis, at mid-April, the first month of the current marketing season, to 55.2 cents at mid-June. The average declined during the following months to 52.8 cents at mid-September.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1953 Apr.	1953 May	1953 June	1953 July	1954 Apr.	1954 May	1954 June	1954 July 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	18.9	14.3	14.7	13.0	9.8	9.7	11.7	8.4	65
60's and finer	do.	11.8	8.3	8.5	7.0	5.4	4.5	5.9	4.6	87
56's - 60's	do.					1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	
50's - 56's	do.	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	1.2	1.4	1.1	.8	38
44's - 50's	do.					.4	.4	.5	.3	
40's - 44's	do.	1.1	.7	1.0	.6	.3	.6	.6	.4	67
Not finer than 40's	do.	2.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	.8	1.1	1.6	.7	30
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.3	.3	.3	.2	.2	.1	.2	.1	50
Duty-free	do.	10.3	10.1	6.9	17.2	11.3	9.4	9.2	10.0	58
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.8	5.5	4.1	8.0	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.9	74
Not finer than 40's	do.	5.5	4.6	2.8	9.2	6.2	4.4	3.8	4.1	45
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	74.5	88.8	103.5	116.4	35.5	45.2	56.9	65.2	56
60's and finer	do.	50.4	58.6	67.1	74.1	20.8	25.3	31.2	35.8	60
56's - 60's	do.					4.2	5.9	7.6	9.0	
50's - 56's	do.	10.8	13.9	16.6	19.5	4.4	5.7	6.9	7.7	53
44's - 50's	do.					1.3	1.7	2.3	2.6	
40's - 44's	do.	2.7	3.4	4.5	5.1	1.1	1.8	2.3	2.7	53
Not finer than 40's	do.	9.5	11.5	13.6	15.9	2.9	3.9	5.5	6.2	39
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.1	61
Duty-free	do.	54.1	64.2	71.1	88.3	33.4	42.9	52.1	62.1	70
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	27.5	33.0	37.1	45.1	15.3	20.3	25.6	31.5	70
Not finer than 40's	do.	26.6	31.2	34.0	43.2	18.1	22.6	26.5	30.6	71
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	30.0	22.3	22.3	19.9	15.6	15.2	17.8	12.9	65
Duty-free	do.	15.4	15.1	10.0	25.7	16.7	13.5	13.1	14.4	56
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	5,434	5,760	5,617	5,325	82
60's and finer	do.	3,661	3,966	3,979	3,329	2,955	3,144	3,097	2,980	90
50's up to 60's	do.	2,786	2,981	3,015	2,478	1,744	1,862	1,746	1,663	67
48's and coarser	do.	1,025	1,128	1,040	719	735	754	774	682	95
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,309	2,080	1,857	1,476	99
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	133.7	166.0	198.2	230.8	84.6	107.7	135.8	157.1	68
60's and finer	do.	67.9	83.8	99.7	116.3	45.4	58.0	73.5	85.4	73
50's up to 60's	do.	47.7	59.7	71.7	84.1	27.4	34.9	43.6	50.2	60
48's and coarser	do.	18.1	22.5	26.8	30.4	11.8	14.8	18.7	21.5	71
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	55.1	64.9	75.4	82.9	40.6	48.9	58.2	64.1	77
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics				154.4				118.2		77
Government orders	do.			12.1				1.6		13
Men's and boys' wear	do.			73.6				56.5		77
Women's and children's wear	do.			68.7				60.1		87
Non-apparel fabrics	do.			26.7				14.0		52
Blanketing	do.			14.9				8.0		54
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.			11.8				6.0		51
Total woven fabrics	do.			181.1				132.2		73

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning system and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1953 June	1953 July	1953 Aug.	1953 Sept.	1954 June	1954 July	1954 Aug.	1954 Sept.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	56.0	54.8	54.5	54.1	55.2	55.0	54.2	52.8	98
Parity price	pound	57.8	58.4	58.4	58.2	58.9	58.5	58.9	58.5	101
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	97	94	93	93	94	94	92	90	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	174.8	172.5	172.5	172.5	176.7	175.6	176.2	177.1	103
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	151.5	149.5	152.5	152.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	103
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.0	132.2	132.2	131.7	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	103
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	122.5	122.0	120.5	122.2	122.3	122.6	122.5	102
Low ¼ blood	do.	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	109.0	110.0	110.0	109.5	107
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	103
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	178.0	177.9	177.5	178.5	181.4	181.0	181.0	180.3	101
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	143.5	144.5	148.5	147.0	149.0	149.5	150.8	148.4	101
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	119.9	118.9	117.4	120.0	118.7	116.6	121.1	122.0	102
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.8	111.0	112.5	113.2	112.8	113.5	114.4	114.0	101
Low ¼ blood	do.	106.0	106.0	106.0	106.0	107.7	108.5	108.5	107.9	102
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	103
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	185.0	182.5	181.2	182.5	185.0	185.0	185.0	184.0	101
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	168.8	167.5	167.5	167.5	170.0	170.0	170.0	168.5	101
Fine fall (¾" and over)	do.	150.1	152.5	152.5	153.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	158.0	103
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and ½ warp	do.	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	97
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	177.5	177.8	178.0	178.0	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	97
64's combing	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	97
58's, 60's combing	do.	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	100
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	127.0	125.5	125.5	125.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	106
1's (56's)	do.	104.2	112.5	111.0	111.0	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	110
2's (50's)	do.	96.5	104.8	104.5	104.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	101
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	84.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	100
4's (44's)	do.	86.0	86.2	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	100
5's (40's)	do.	86.0	86.2	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	100
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	33.2	33.4	33.0	32.8	34.2	34.4	34.2	34.5	105
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1½ denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	100
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	100
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	88
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	180.0	180.0	180.0	180.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	89
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	79
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	76
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ Average of 10 markets.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
Production (grease)	Million	424.0	308.0	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	271.3	270-275
Shorn	pounds	358.5	251.4	231.8	212.9	215.4	225.5	232.4	230.3	229.4
Pulled	do.	65.5	56.6	46.6	35.6	32.4	25.9	33.6	41.0	
Reported stocks, April 1, scoured basis 2/										
Apparel wool	"	109.2	404.2	346.5	199.3	143.2	130.2	130.8	163.1	149.1
Domestic	"	76.6	244.6	216.2	124.4	72.4	35.6	55.7	98.8	103.8
Foreign	"	32.6	159.6	130.3	74.9	70.8	94.6	75.1	64.3	45.3
Carpet wool	"	31.9	93.5	82.7	62.0	54.5	45.0	34.0	41.9	29.4
Imports for consumption, clean content										
Dutiable 3/	"	56.0	259.3	246.2	154.9	250.1	272.0	248.4	165.7	110-140
Finer than 56's	"	34.8	182.8	182.9	120.5	187.2	208.7	162.0	102.6	
44's-56's	"		36.3	35.8	18.3	35.6	37.3	47.4	28.8	
40's-44's	"	4.9	14.2	10.4	6.6	11.4	6.5	17.1	9.8	
Not finer than 40's	"	10.6	24.3	16.3	8.8	13.7	16.3	18.1	21.7	
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	"	5.7	1.0	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.8	3.2	2.7	
Duty-free	"	95.9	140.0	232.8	117.6	216.7	89.2	118.6	128.6	100-125
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	"	93.1	77.2	112.0	61.1	115.1	61.6	75.5	69.1	
Not finer than 40's	"	2.8	62.8	120.8	56.5	101.6	27.6	43.1	59.5	
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable 3/	"	90.4	438.8	416.3	262.3	402.0	430.6	379.7	260.8	175-225
Finer than 56's	"	59.5	325.3	320.8	210.5	310.4	338.5	257.8	169.2	
44's-56's	"		54.4	55.2	28.0	51.9	54.0	66.0	42.0	
40's-44's	"	7.2	19.7	14.6	9.5	16.2	9.0	23.4	13.6	
Not finer than 40's	"	15.6	37.3	24.6	13.4	20.4	24.8	27.4	32.1	
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	"	8.1	1.2	0.7	0.8	2.5	2.8	4.6	3.9	
Duty-free	"	133.7	202.3	341.3	172.5	315.1	126.1	165.3	188.0	145-180
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	"	129.6	110.9	160.0	85.9	163.2	83.2	100.7	96.0	
Not finer than 40's	"	4.1	91.4	181.3	86.6	151.9	42.9	64.6	92.0	
Mill consumption, scoured basis 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	"	281.1	525.9	485.2	339.0	436.9	382.1	346.8	359.1	275-325
60's and finer	"	---	327.2	303.4	185.1	246.0	223.9	177.4	183.2	
50's up to 60's	"	---	134.6	130.7	120.1	150.9	125.1	124.2	128.6	
48's and coarser	"	---	64.1	51.1	33.8	40.0	33.1	45.2	47.3	
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	"	96.0	172.3	207.9	161.4	197.9	102.0	119.6	135.1	100-125
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Apparel fabrics	do.	---	448.4	434.3	351.2	358.9	316.4	308.0	290.7	
Government orders		---	10.1	11.1	17.2	10.1	103.9	63.7	19.6	
Men's and boys' wear		---	222.6	197.1	142.1	174.5	105.1	108.7	130.6	
Women's and children's wear	"	---	179.1	194.0	165.4	174.3	107.4	135.6	140.5	
Kind unspecified	"	---	36.6	32.1	26.5	---	---	---	---	
Non-apparel fabrics	"	---	67.4	63.3	63.2	69.6	59.0	43.4	47.2	
Blanketing	"	---	29.2	21.4	22.5	19.1	31.4	24.3	28.6	
Other non-apparel fabrics	"	---	38.2	41.9	40.7	50.5	27.6	19.1	18.6	
Total woven fabrics	"	---	515.8	497.6	414.4	428.5	375.4	351.4	337.9	

1/ Indications as of October 1. 2/ Includes wool held on consignment, wool in process of manufacture up to the carding operation and wool held in bond, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense and wool held by or for the account of growers. 3/ Includes a small quantity of carbonized wool which was not reported by class and grade, but excludes wool entered free as an act of international courtesy. 4/ For 1935-41 inclusive, Donskoi, Smyrna, and similar wools without merino or English blood are reported as carpet wool and all other wools, both free and dutiable, are reported as apparel wool; beginning 1942, all duty-free wools are reported as carpet wool and all dutiable wools are reported as apparel wool. Includes consumption on the cotton and other systems of spinning prior to 1946 and in batting and felt manufactures prior to 1947; for 1947 and later years includes only consumption on the woolen and worsted systems. Prior to 1942, wool was considered as consumed when carded or otherwise advanced beyond scouring or raw stock dyeing; beginning January 1942, wool was considered as consumed (1) on the woolen system when laid in mixes and (2) on the worsted system when entering scouring bowls; beginning August 1948, consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil production. 5/ Prior to 1950, 25 percent or more wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight; principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight for 1950 and later years.

Stock, import, consumption, and fabric production data compiled from reports of U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), by months, 1952-54

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's 60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1952						
January 25	162.2	127.5	95.0	95.0	81.1	81.1
February 8	165.7	133.2	98.5	84.6	82.3	81.1
March 21	147.3	119.2	79.5	63.1	59.6	57.3
April 3	147.5	107.7	72.6	56.2	51.5	51.5
May 16	163.5	122.6	91.1	75.9	66.6	64.2
May 23	166.3	124.5	91.9	76.8	67.5	64.0
July 18	181.1	133.5	104.5	88.2	81.3	78.9
July 25	174.2	127.7	96.4	84.8	80.1	76.6
September 19	164.6	127.5	91.6	82.3	78.8	74.2
September 26	171.7	136.9	99.8	84.7	81.2	76.6
November 28	175.1	140.1	108.6	93.4	88.7	84.0
December 12	177.6	140.2	107.5	88.8	85.3	81.8
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	103.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 24	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	149.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended October 15, 1954 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1953 week ended October 16	1954 week ended Aug. 6	1954 week ended October 15	Percent change week ended October 15, from Average 1947-49	October 16 1953	Aug. 6 1954
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	172.5	175.0	172.5	+ 13.7	0	- 1.4
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	152.5	157.5	157.5	+ 14.9	+ 3.3	0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	135.0	132.5	+ 21.4	0	- 1.9
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	120.5	123.0	122.5	+ 22.5	+ 1.7	- 0.4
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	102.5	110.0	107.5	+ 19.6	+ 4.9	- 2.3
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	100.0	100.0	+ 19.8	+ 2.6	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	182.5	181.0	177.5	+ 14.9	- 2.7	- 1.9
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	147.5	152.5	147.0	+ 11.7	- 0.3	- 3.6
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	120.0	118.5	122.0	+ 18.2	+ 1.7	+ 3.0
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	114.5	115.0	114.0	+ 17.5	- 0.4	- 0.9
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	106.0	108.5	107.5	+ 37.1	+ 1.4	- 0.9
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	97.5	97.5	+ 32.8	+ 2.6	0
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	182.5	185.0	177.5	+ 17.6	-2.7	- 4.1
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	167.5	170.0	162.5	+ 34.3	- 3.0	- 4.4
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	155.0	160.0	145.0	+ 30.9	- 6.5	- 9.4

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1954 loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	1954 program loan rates	Boston quotations week ended October 15, 1954
	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn		
Territory and Texas		
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.64	1.70-1.75
Fine, average and good French combing	1.58	1.65-1.70
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.44	1.55-1.62
$\frac{1}{2}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.48	1.55-1.60
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.28	1.30-1.35
$\frac{1}{4}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.19-1.26
Low $\frac{1}{4}$ blood	1.02	1.05-1.10
Common and braid	.98	.95-1.05
Fleece		
Fine, Delaine	1.66	1.75-1.80
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.37	1.45-1.50
$\frac{1}{2}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.42	1.44-1.50
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.19	1.19-1.25
$\frac{1}{4}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.14	1.10-1.18
Low $\frac{1}{4}$ blood	1.01	1.05-1.10
Common and braid	.94	.95-1.00
Original bag shorn		
Fine Texas		
Good French combing and staple	1.67	1.75-1.80
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.48	1.60-1.65
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.35	1.40-1.50

Compiled from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

The mid-month averages ranged between 90 and 94 percent of parity and were above the national average support level for the current season each month except September. The average for the season probably will be not much different from the 54.7 cents received by farmers in the 1953-54 season and probably will be slightly above the national average support level under the current program.

National Average Support Level For 1955 Shorn Wool to be 62 Cents

It has been announced that the national average support level for wool shorn on or after January 1, 1955, and sold during the marketing season April 1, 1955, through March 31, 1956, will be 62 cents per pound, grease basis, to the grower. The announced level is equivalent to 106 percent of the parity price for shorn wool as of September 15, 1954. The support level under the current program, 53.2 cents, is equivalent to 90 percent of the parity price as of March 15, 1954.

Under the 1955 program, producers' returns from shorn wool will be supported by means of payments based on the percentage needed to bring the average return per pound up to the national average support level. Under the current program, prices of both shorn and pulled wool are supported by means of loans. Support for pulled wool under the new program will be effected through payments on marketings of live sheep and lambs during April 1, 1955-March 31, 1956. Details of the pulled wool program have not yet been announced.

The 1955 program will allow prices of domestic wool to seek their own level in the market under current tariff protection. It will enable domestic wools to move into consumption when world market prices are below support levels and to compete more freely on a price basis with man-made and other natural fibers.

The announced support level, established under the provisions of the National Wool Act of 1954, is 16.5 percent higher than that of the current program and between 10 and 15 percent higher than the average of prices received so far this season. In recent years, wool has accounted for 30 to 40 percent of returns from sheep raising.

Major Provisions of the National Wool Act of 1954

Among the major provisions of the National Wool Act of 1954 are:

1. Prices of wool and mohair marketed during the period beginning April 1, 1955, and ending March 31, 1959, shall be supported by means of loans, purchases, payments, or other operations.

2. The support price for shorn wool shall be at such level, not to exceed 110 percent of parity, as the Secretary, after consultation with producer representatives, and after taking into consideration prices paid and other cost conditions affecting sheep production, determines to be necessary in order to encourage an annual production of approximately 300 million pounds of shorn wool, grease basis.

3. The support price for pulled wool shall be at such level, in relation to the support level for shorn wool, as will maintain normal marketing practices.

4. The support price for mohair shall be at such level, in relationship to the support price for shorn wool, as is necessary to maintain approximately the same percentage of parity for mohair as for shorn wool. The deviation of the mohair support price shall not be calculated so as to cause it to rise or fall more than 15 percent above or below the comparable percentage of parity at which shorn wool is supported.

5. No price support shall be made available, other than payments, at a level in excess of 90 percent of parity.

6. If payments are utilized, payments shall be such as is determined to be sufficient, when added to the national average price received, to give producers a national average return for the commodity equal to the support price level.

a. The total of payments shall not at any time exceed an amount equal to 70 percent of accumulated totals, as of the same date, of gross receipts from specific duties collected on and after January 1, 1953, on all articles subject to duty under Schedule 11 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

b. Wool produced prior to January 1, 1955, shall not be subject to payments.

c. Payments to any producer need not be made if the amount of the payments to the producer or all producers is too small to justify the cost of making such payments.

United States Production Likely to be Down Next Year

A slightly smaller production of both shorn and pulled wool is a likely prospect for next year. Since more sheep and lambs are being slaughtered this year than are being raised, fewer sheep and lambs are likely to remain on farms and ranches at the beginning of next year. If, as now appears likely, slaughter declines next year, fewer pelts are likely to be available for pulling.

This year's shorn wool clip has been estimated at 229 million pounds, grease basis, or in the neighborhood of 101 million pounds, clean basis. Production in 1953 was 230 million pounds. The larger slaughter this year suggests that pulled wool production this year is likely to be up a little from the 41 million pounds, as pulled, or about 31 million pounds, clean, estimated for last year.

Increase in World Production Forecast for 1954-55

World wool production during 1954-55 is forecasted by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 4,420 million pounds, grease basis (table 4). Production during the 1953-54 season is estimated at 4,370 million pounds, the same as in 1952-53. The Foreign Agricultural Service estimates that the clean equivalent of the 1954-55 production forecast would be about 2,550 million pounds, about 30 million pounds above the record of 1953-54. Apparel wool is expected to represent about the same proportion of the total as for the last 4 seasons. Merino wool probably will account for about two-fifths of the apparel wool, practically the same as last year.

Increases during 1954-55 are in prospect for each of the 5 surplus-producing countries except Uruguay where production is expected to be unchanged. The expected increases for the other 4 countries range from 1 percent for the Union of South Africa to 3 percent for Australia, or from 2 to 40 million pounds, grease basis.

Production is now as high or higher than prewar in most countries. Canada, the United States, and Western Germany are among the major exceptions.

1953-54 Exports from British Dominions Up; Those From South America Decline Sharply

Total exports from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the 1953-54 season totaled 1,689 million pounds, actual weight, between 1 and 2 percent more than in 1952-53 (table 5). Exports from Australia and New Zealand increased about 1 percent, while the total for the Union of South Africa was up almost 6 percent from the previous season.

Table 4.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1948-54

Country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	410.0
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,300.0	1,260.0	1,300.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	422.0	425.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	268.0	270.0
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	202.5
Other countries	1,590.0	1,594.2	1,650.0	1,715.9	1,798.4	1,817.5	1,812.5
Estimated world total	3,770.0	3,890.0	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,370.0	4,370.0	4,420.0

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay, however, were substantially lower than during 1952-53. During the first 10 months of the season, exports from Argentina were down 62 percent and from Uruguay 48 percent from the previous season.

Table 5.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia	906	1,066	1,073
New Zealand	458	383	387
Union of South Africa	214	217	229
Argentina 2/	51	431	163
Uruguay 2/	29	202	104

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through July.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U. S. Imports of Dutiable Wool Continue Below Last Year

Monthly imports of dutiable wool for consumption during the first 7 months of this year fluctuated but little about a monthly average of about 9.3 million pounds, clean. Last year, imports declined sharply over the year from about 21 million pounds in January to only about 8 million pounds in December.

Total imports this year through July, 65 million pounds, were about 44 percent below early last year. Present indications are that the total for this year is likely to be below the 166 million pounds of last year and probably the lowest since before World War II. However, for the year as a whole, the percentage decline from last year is likely to be somewhat less than early in the year. The total last year was one-third lower than that for 1952.

British Dominion wools accounted for 70 percent of total imports compared with only 45 percent in the same period last year (table 6). The proportion of South American wools in the total was down to only 26 percent from 51 percent in the first 7 months of 1953.

U. S. Imports of Duty-free Wool Also Substantially Below Last Year

About 30 percent less "named" and other wools not finer than 40's entered duty-free for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, heavy fulled lumbermen's socks, and knit or felt boots during January-July of this year than during the same months of last year. The total, 62 million pounds, clean, was about 2 million pounds less than the quantity reported as consumed by mills during that period. The proportion from each of the major supplying countries was about the same as last year.

The monthly rate declined sharply over the first 8 months of last year. Although it increased slightly after the first quarter of this year, the total for this year is likely to be less than last year. However, the decline probably will be somewhat less than indicated for the early months of the year.

Table 6.- Percentage distribution of United States imports of wool by country of origin, January-June 1951-54

Country	Duty-free				Dutiable				Total			
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1951	1952	1953	1954	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Australia	0.1	1/	0.1	1/	37.7	46.6	27.0	40.4	26.9	32.9	16.1	21.1
New Zealand	2.8	23.0	12.2	11.8	6.4	22.4	11.6	14.5	5.4	22.6	11.9	13.2
Union of South Africa	.5	.2	.4	1.4	8.9	13.0	6.4	15.1	6.5	9.2	4.0	8.5
Argentina	30.5	14.1	45.9	47.8	12.1	6.4	31.7	15.4	17.4	8.7	37.5	30.9
Uruguay	.2	.1	.1	0	28.8	7.2	19.3	10.2	20.5	5.1	11.5	5.3
Other countries	65.9	62.6	41.3	39.0	6.1	4.4	4.0	4.4	23.3	21.5	19.0	21.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Less than 0.05.

Compiled from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

Less Wool Under Loan Than a Year Ago

About 30 million pounds, actual weight, or about 14 million pounds, clean, of 1954 wool were under loan as of late September. A year earlier, about 42 million pounds, actual weight, or about 19 million pounds, clean, of 1953 wool were under loan.

CCC Holdings a Little Larger Than at This Time Last Year

As of the end of September, the Commodity Credit Corporation held about 111 million pounds, actual weight, or probably in the neighborhood of about 55 million pounds, clean, of wool acquired under the 1952 and 1953 price support programs. A year earlier, CCC held about 98 million pounds, actual weight, or probably about 46 million pounds, clean, of wool acquired under the 1952 program.

CCC acquired title to 100.6 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 48 million pounds, clean, under the 1952 program and to 36.4 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 19 million pounds, clean, under the 1953 program.

It was recently announced that through May 1955 wools owned by the CCC will not be sold for less than 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates plus selling commission.

Indications are that total stocks of apparel wool, including CCC holdings and wool under loan, in the United States are about the same as a year ago.

U. S. Stocks of Carpet Wool Continue Below a Year Earlier

Reported holdings of carpet wool ("named" wools and other foreign wools not finer than 40's, both free and dutiable) at mid-year totaled 31 million pounds, scoured basis. This is a decline of 13 million pounds from a year earlier but an increase of about 2 million pounds from total reported holdings as of the end of the first quarter.

About 9 million pounds of the reduction from a year earlier took place in spinners' holdings and about 4 million in dealers' stocks.

World Consumption Below Last Year

On the basis of data for 11 of the major consuming countries, the Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that world consumption of wool during the first half of this year was at an annual rate about 8 percent below the record rate of the first half of 1953. Most of the reporting countries showed declines. The annual rate during the second quarter of 1954 was about 11 percent below a year earlier. It was lower than the production forecast for the 1954-55 season.

Consumption declined somewhat during the second half of 1953 and the total for the year has been estimated at 2,607 million pounds, clean, about 3 percent less than the record consumption of 1950 (table 7).

Table 7.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1948-55

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,135	2,185	2,245	2,323	2,354	2,500	2/2,544	3/2,575
Merino	665	690	719	742	719	826	817	835
Crossbred	1,063	1,074	1,105	1,143	1,180	1,223	1,246	1,255
Other	407	421	421	438	455	471	481	485
Consumption	2,571	2,448	2,681	2,277	2,345	2,607		

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Forecast.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Apparel Wool Consumption in the United States Continues Recovery from Sharp Recession Late Last Year

Use of apparel wool by woolen and worsted mills during January-August amounted to 181 million pounds, scoured basis. The average rate during these months was about 29 percent below a year earlier.

The rate of consumption declined sharply during the final quarter of last year to the lowest level for that time of year since 1937. Although the rate increased gradually early this year, it was below a year earlier each month through August (table 8). The rate during August, the latest month for which information is available, was 22 percent below that of August 1953 but the highest so far this year.

By grade categories, the declines in the rates during January-August were as follows:

60's and finer-25 percent
50's up to 60's-40 percent
48's and coarser-28 percent

During August, the rate of mill use of 60's and finer wool was 13 percent below a year earlier; that of 50's up to 60's was 35 percent lower; and that of 48's and coarser was down 20 percent (table 9).

Table 8.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-54

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,663	4,934	4,904	5,434	5,760	5,617	5,325	5,952				
Carpet	2,460	2,447	2,348	2,309	2,080	1,857	1,476	2,313				
Total	7,123	7,381	7,252	7,743	7,840	7,474	6,801	8,265				

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9 .- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-August 1946-54

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
60's and finer	54.6	61.1	63.4	54.0	56.9	58.7	52.2	50.3	54.5
50's and up to 60's	31.3	26.0	26.0	35.9	33.9	32.4	35.2	36.6	32.0
48's and coarser	14.1	12.9	10.6	10.1	9.2	8.9	12.6	13.1	13.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-August 1946-54

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Worsted	57.2	63.8	66.3	57.7	67.0	62.1	53.0	58.2	54.8
Woolen	42.8	36.2	33.7	42.3	33.0	37.9	47.0	41.8	45.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-54

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	73.5	75.1	76.2	75.2	74.8	72.0	69.3	71.0					
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.9	3.4	2.0					
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.3	7.5	8.3	6.7	7.3	8.9	9.3	9.7					
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.2	14.4	12.3	14.5	14.8	15.9	17.6	16.4					
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	.9	1.3	.4	.9					

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The decline from last year in the use of wool on the worsted system--the sum of top and noil production--was somewhat greater than on the woolen system--the quantity laid in mixes. As a result, wool top and noil production accounted for only 54.8 percent of the total this year compared with 58.2 percent last year (table 10).

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Continues Below Last Year

The rate of woolen and worsted mill use of carpet wool (duty-free foreign) during the first 8 months of this year was about 19 percent below last year. Consumption of other fiber, including reused and reprocessed wool and man-made fiber, was down by about the same percentage (table 11).

The rate declined each month during January-July but increased during August. The August rate was the highest since March of this year but was 14 percent below a year earlier.

About 31.6 million square yards of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs were produced during the first 7 months of this year. This represents a decline of almost one-fourth from last year (table 12).

Table 12.- Production of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1950-54 1/

Month	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
January	6,635	7,544	5,252	6,552	4,758
February	6,802	7,297	4,973	6,589	5,076
March	8,073	7,286	5,445	7,227	5,663
April	7,087	6,819	5,861	6,929	5,024
May	6,998	5,411	5,051	5,436	4,413
June	8,129	4,858	3,057	5,388	4,301
July	4,061	1,849	2,512	3,111	2,347
August	7,153	3,633	4,562	5,017	
September	7,689	3,615	5,775	5,447	
October	7,942	4,436	7,254	5,867	
November	8,024	3,976	5,904	4,353	
December	7,148	3,917	6,442	4,921	
Total	85,741	60,641	62,088	66,837	

1/ Includes woven Axminister, Chenille, Velvet, and Wilton type fabrics but excludes hooked, tufted, rag or automobile carpets and rugs.

From Carpet Institute, Incorporated.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Continues Below That of Last Year

About 132 million linear yards of woolen and worsted fabric (fabric principally wool, reused, or reprocessed wool by weight) were produced during the first half of this year (table 13). Although about 11 percent more was produced during the second quarter than during the first, output during both quarters was about 27 percent lower than last year.

Production of both apparel and non-apparel fabric was below last year. A decline of 23 percent in output of apparel fabric reflected declines of 87 percent in Government orders, of 23 percent for men's and boys' wear, and of 12 percent for women's and children's wear. The yardage of non-apparel fabric was down 48 percent with blanketing down 46 percent and other non-apparel fabric down 49 percent.

Output of apparel fabric during the second quarter was up about 16 percent from the first quarter. Government orders were one-third lower, but 13 percent more yards of men's and boys' wear and 19 percent more yards of women's and children's wear fabric were produced. However, the yardage of non-apparel fabric, which accounted for about 9 percent of the total, was down 23 percent with declines of 20 percent in blanketing and of 27 percent in other non-apparel.

About 6 percent more pounds of woven felt were produced during the first half of this year than early in 1953. But output during the second quarter was 2 percent lower than during the first.

Cuttings of Most Items of Men's Tailored Clothing Below Last Year

Separate dress and sport trouser cuttings during January-August were at an average rate about 1 percent above last year (tables 15 and 16). The rates for all of the other items were down from last year. The declines ranged from 4 percent for summer suits to 27 percent for overcoats and topcoats.

For summer suits and separate dress and sports trousers, the two categories for which information as to fiber content is reported, cuttings from fabric containing 50 percent or more wool were up somewhat. The increases were 8 percent for trousers and 16 percent for the other category.

Cuttings of Women's, Misses', and Juniors' Outerwear

About 16.8 million coats, 9.9 million suits, 49.5 million skirts, and 98.8 million unit-priced dresses were cut during January-August of this year. Since data were collected on a quarterly rather than a

Table 13.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-June 1951-54 1/

Fabric	1951	1952	1953	1954	Percentage change 1954 from 1953
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	198,480	167,647	181,067	132,165	-27.0
Apparel	167,870	145,542	154,371	118,185	-23.4
Government orders	36,140	39,671	12,086	1,593	-86.8
Other than Government orders	131,730	105,871	142,285	116,592	-18.1
Men's and boys'	69,725	51,410	73,603	2/56,469	-23.3
Woolen	23,374	24,428	32,418	22,850	-29.5
Worsted	46,351	26,982	41,185	29,951	-27.3
Women's and children's	62,005	54,461	68,682	2/60,123	-12.5
Woolen	46,868	45,466	57,554	47,411	-17.6
Worsted	15,137	8,995	11,128	8,261	-25.8
Non-apparel	30,610	22,105	26,696	13,980	-47.6
Blanketing	13,311	12,172	14,929	7,998	-46.4
Government orders	5,189	4,050	4,500	3/	--
Other than Government orders	8,122	8,122	10,429	6,834	-34.5
Other non-apparel	17,299	9,933	11,767	5,982	-49.2
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	6,654	4,133	4,892	5,161	+5.5

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.
2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.
3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

monthly basis last year, comparable 1953 figures are not available. However, during the first half of the year, cuttings of coats, unit-priced dresses, and skirts were above last year, but fewer suits were cut. The increases ranged from 2 percent for unit-priced dresses to 7 percent for coats. The decline for suits was 7 percent. The proportions of the totals accounted for by rayon and acetate fabric for those categories for which information as to fiber content is available were the same or smaller than last year.

Table 14.- Percent of woolen and worsted apparel fabric and blanketing produced toward Government orders, 1950-54

Type of fabric	1950	1951	1952	1953				1954	
				1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	2.6	32.8	20.7	11.3	4.8	4.5	6.6	1.7	1.0
Blanketing	1/	52.6	35.3	35.2	25.4	21.8	32.1	18.5	1/

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

MOHAIR

Production of mohair next year probably will not be much different from this year. The number of goats on farms and ranches at the beginning of next year is likely to be not much different from early this year. Drought very likely has prevented any expansion this year.

Total production of mohair this year is likely to be a little larger than the 12.6 million pounds, grease basis, or roughly 10.3 million pounds, clean basis, estimated for last year. The number of goats in Texas at the beginning of this year was up 7 percent from early 1953. This State accounted for about 95 percent of the mohair produced last year.

Dealer and manufacturer holdings of mohair at the end of the first quarter of this year amounted to 5.2 million pounds, clean basis, an increase of about a million pounds from early 1953.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR MOHAIR

Item	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
					SUPPLIES AND CONSUMPTION				
Production (grease basis) 1/	19,282	18,225	15,972	12,959	13,245	12,888	12,116	12,572	
Reported stocks April 1 (scoured basis) 2/	12,463	9,808	11,120	11,802	7,706	3,080	4,225	4,192	5,150
Imports for consumption (clean content) 3/	906	433	143	45	1,602	2,230	1,433	210	
Mill consumption (scoured basis) 4/	19,227	14,681	9,478	15,149	17,188	11,067	11,062	5/	
Worsted	12,514	11,888	8,050	9,993	12,824	7,206	6,642	5,544	
Woolen	6,713	2,793	1,428	5,156	4,364	3,861	4,420	5/	
					PRICES				
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Average price received by farmers (grease basis) 6/	61.1	53.6	45.4	46.3	76.0	118.0	96.2	88.6	7/
Boston market prices (grease basis, Texas sorted)									
40's	120.0	142.2	139.1	137.9	167.3	257.8	201.8	230.3	235-245
36's	108.6	128.7	111.3	108.0	150.4	242.0	186.5	213.5	220-230
32's	95.0	113.9	94.2	92.1	126.5	220.0	173.9	190.9	200-210
30's	82.2	91.2	77.4	76.5	111.4	202.2	156.7	165.2	145-155
26's	68.5	73.5	62.8	60.0	96.6	172.1	135.6	134.8	100-105
22's	58.2	67.8	52.8	49.6	87.1	152.5	109.4	98.4	80- 85
18's	48.6	53.7	41.4	40.1	79.5	144.0	99.4	88.2	70- 75

1/ Production in 7 leading States (Arizona, California, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Utah).
2/ Includes mohair held on consignment, foreign mohair held in bond, and mohair in process of manufacture up to the carding operation but excludes mohair held for the account of or by growers. 3/ Includes only mohair not advanced in any manner or by any process of manufacture beyond washed, scoured, or carbonized condition. 4/ Consumption of mohair, tops, noils, etc. for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen and worsted systems. 5/ Not available. Reports show only combined figure for mohair, alpaca, vicuna, etc., on woolen system. 6/ Weighted average. 7/ Indications as of October 1.

Data on stocks, imports, and consumption compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census; Boston market prices, compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Imports are usually small relative to domestic production and consumption. Imports last year came to 0.2 million pounds, clean, down sharply from the 1.4 million pounds of 1952. During the first half of this year they amounted to less than one-tenth of the low level of last year.

Data on exports of mohair are not reported separately, but such information as is available suggests that exports, although small relative to production, increased substantially last year and that a further increase has taken place this year. In 1952, only 24 thousand pounds, clean, of wool-like specialty hair, including mohair, were exported. Last year, exports of such hair came to 0.9 million pounds, clean, higher than for any other of the 11 years for which such data are available. About 1.5 million pounds were exported during the first 8 months of this year, substantially more than during the entire year 1953.

Beginning with last year, the only available reported information on mill consumption of mohair relates to the worsted system--top and noil production, which during the first half of this year was about 10 percent below early 1953. For the woolen system, consumption data for mohair are now combined with data for some other fibers. The woolen system accounted for 40 percent of the total for the two systems in 1952 but the proportion has varied considerably from year to year.

Indications are that prices received by growers for the 1954 clip will average somewhat lower than the 88.6 cents per pound, grease basis, estimated for 1953. Prices at local shipping points for this year's Texas spring clip ranged between $0.65 and $0.80 for adult and between $1.00 and $1.115 for kid. Prices for the 1953 spring clip ranged between $0.915 and $1.015 for adult and between $1.165 and $1.265 for kid. Up to mid-October, prices for this year's fall clip had ranged between $0.65 and $0.675 for adult, between $1.00 and $1.025 for kid, and between $1.50 and $1.60 for surplus kid. Up to the same date last year, prices for 1953 fall hair had ranged between $0.75 and $0.785 for adult, between $1.00 and $1.025 for kid, and between $1.60 and $1.75 for surplus kid.

The national average support level for mohair produced on or after January 1, 1955, and marketed during the year beginning April 1, 1955, and ending on March 31, 1956, will be 70 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer. This was equivalent to 91 percent of the parity price for mohair as of September 15, 1954. As for shorn wool, producers' returns from mohair will be supported by means of payments based on the percentage needed to bring the average return per pound up to the national average support level.

Table 15.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-August 1952-54

Type of garment	Number of garments cut 1952 (35 weeks)	1953 (35 weeks)	1954 (34 weeks)	Percentage change in weekly average rate 1954 from 1952	1953
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	12,357.8	14,961.1	12,534.0	+4.4	-13.6
Regular - weight	9,514.3	11,261.6	9,082.0	-1.7	-17.0
50 percent or more wool	8,720.2	10,240.0	---	---	---
Other	794.1	1,021.6	---	---	---
Summer - weight	2,843.5	3,699.5	3,452.0	+24.8	-4.0
50 percent or more wool	773.0	999.6	1,127.0	+49.8	+15.7
Man-made fibers	1,990.5	2,577.0	2,174.0	+12.3	-13.2
Other	80.0	122.9	151.0	+95.7	+28.6
Separate dress and sport trousers	30,079.1	36,833.8	36,252.0	+24.1	+1.3
50 percent or more wool	9,183.6	10,839.1	11,376.0	+27.5	+8.0
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	19,138.5	22,753.4)	24,876.0	+22.5	-1.5
Chiefly cotton	1,757.0	3,241.3)			
Overcoats and topcoats	3,284.7	3,886.1	2,765.0	-13.3	-26.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-August 1951-54

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits				
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.8	91.7	90.9	---
Other	7.2	8.3	9.1	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	36.1	27.2	27.0	32.6
Man-made fibers	59.9	70.0	69.7	63.0
Other	4.0	2.8	3.3	4.4
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	29.7	30.5	29.4	31.4
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	64.5	63.6	61.7)	68.6
Chiefly cotton	5.8	5.9	8.9)	

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Fiber consumed in worsted combing and in woolen spinning, scoured basis, United States, 1951-53

Classification	1951 (52 weeks)	1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks)
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
All fibers, total	789,414	752,228	753,374
Tops and noils combed	262,167	216,331	232,209
Tops	231,436	192,632	206,287
Wool of the sheep, (domestic and foreign duty-paid) 1/	198,351	166,088	182,337
Mohair	7,700	6,952	4,774
Rayon and acetate 2/	7,748	5,868	5,610
Other synthetics 2/	3/	3/	8,499
Other fibers	3/17,637	3/13,724	5,067
Noils	30,731	23,699	25,922
Wool of the sheep, (domestic and foreign duty-paid) 1/	26,697	20,792	23,384
Mohair	1,085	981	770
Rayon and acetate	550	390	467
Other synthetics	3/	3/	509
Other fibers	3/2,399	3/1,536	792
Fibers consumed in woolen spinning	527,247	535,897	521,165
For yarns (except carpet)	369,300	374,056	338,886
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep	157,097	159,905	153,364
Other wool 1/	89,070	98,170	78,866
Of sheep (tops, noils, etc.)	78,670	87,231	68,192
Other (mohair, alpaca, vicuna, etc.)	10,400	10,939	10,674
Reprocessed and reused wool 1/	70,419	63,255	58,876
Cotton	19,040	18,891	17,044
Rayon and acetate	22,094	19,242	19,727
Other synthetics	3/	3/	9,140
Other fibers	3/11,580	3/14,593	1,869
For carpet and rug yarns	157,947	161,841	182,279
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep	102,012	119,566	135,935
Other wool 1/	4,718	5,599	9,344
Reprocessed and reused wool 1/	13,449	9,470	9,294
Man-made synthetic fibers	3/32,795	3/24,412	25,693
Other fibers	3/4,973	3/2,794	2,013

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. 2/ Primarily consumed on the woolen system with a small amount consumed on the worsted system. 3/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, 1951-53 1/

Fabric	1951 (52 weeks)	1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks)	Percentage change in weekly average rate: 1953 from 1951	Percentage change in weekly average rate: 1953 from 1952
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	375,400	351,359	337,911	-11.7	-5.6
Apparel	316,411	307,951	290,652	-9.9	-7.4
Woolen	163,060	198,268	186,486	+12.2	-7.7
Worsted	153,351	109,683	104,166	-33.4	-6.8
Government orders	103,885	63,658	19,538	-81.6	-69.9
Woolen	41,992	32,755	11,682	-72.7	-65.0
Worsted	61,893	30,903	7,856	-87.6	-75.1
Other than Government orders	212,526	244,293	271,114	+25.2	+8.9
Woolen	121,068	165,513	174,804	+41.7	+3.6
Worsted	91,458	78,780	96,310	+3.3	+19.9
Men's and boys'	105,075	108,734	130,624	+22.0	+17.9
Woolen	35,839	50,196	57,494	+57.4	+12.4
Worsted	69,236	58,538	73,130	+3.6	+22.6
Women's and children's	107,451	135,559	140,490	+28.3	+1.7
Woolen	85,229	115,317	117,310	+35.0	-.2
Worsted	22,222	20,242	23,180	+2.4	+12.4
Non-apparel	58,989	43,408	47,259	-21.4	+6.8
Blanketing	31,408	24,334	28,690	-10.4	+15.7
Government orders	16,512	8,599	8,092	-51.9	-7.7
Other than Government orders	14,896	15,735	20,598	+35.6	+28.4
Other non-apparel	27,581	19,074	18,569	-33.9	-4.5
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	11,342	8,481	10,091	-12.7	+16.7

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

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